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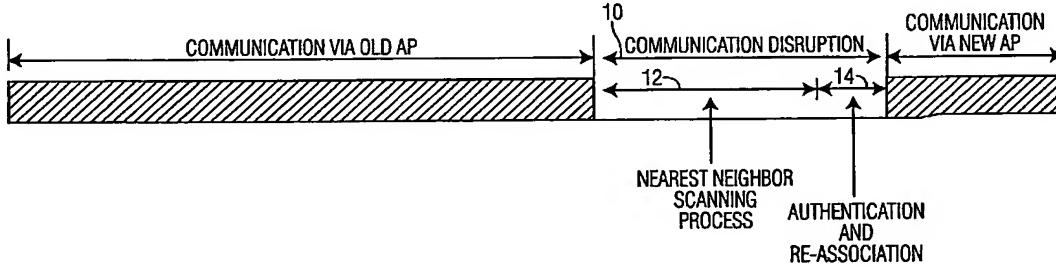
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(54) Title: SYSTEM AND METHOD FOR PERFORMING A FAST HANDOFF IN A WIRELESS LOCAL AREA NETWORK



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(57) Abstract: Disclosed is a system and method for performing a fast channel scan so as to minimize the communication disruption period (10) which occurs during a handoff of a mobile station (STA) (20-23) in a wireless local area network (WLAN) (100). Each mobile station (STA) includes an associated nearest-neighbor table identifying nearest-neighbor APs (14-16) in the network to the AP with which the STA is currently associated. When a STA (20-23) performs a handoff, its nearest-neighbor table is used to perform a prioritized search of those channels of operation included in the table belonging to nearest-neighbor APs (14-16). In this manner, by prioritizing the search to first search the channels of operation belonging to nearest-neighbor APs (14-16), there is a greater likelihood of locating a candidate ap (14-16) to form an association with in less time as compared with the prior art search method of blindly searching each and every operating channel in the network.